

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

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The Progressive Farmer is the Official Organ of the N. C. Farmers' State Alliance

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THE NEWS AND CIRCULAR. The \$4 Reliable—Always True and Faithful. Advocates the Sub-Treasury bill. Advocates unlimited coinage of silver and the issue of \$500,000,000 more paper money. Advocates distributing \$100,000,000 of the money now in the Treasury to the States on the basis of their agricultural products to relieve agricultural depression. Advocates repealing the national bank law, and allowing state banks to issue notes. Advocates the repeal of the national revenue system and a tariff on only. Favors the Farmers' Alliance seeks to promote its objects and advocates the protection of the farmers of North Carolina against imposition from any quarter. Advocates that the white men of North Carolina shall stand together and work for the prosperity of all classes and conditions of men. We print a large eight-page paper. Price \$1.25. In clubs at \$1. Ed. News and Circular, Raleigh, N. C.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

President Butler was in the city Friday on business.

Senator W. A. Peffer, of Kansas, will speak at Raleigh, October 9th. He and President Butler will both speak at Warrenton on the 10th of October. Hear them.

So-called Alliancemen are frequently quoted by Raleigh newspaper correspondents. They are only members in name and such cattle are to be found in various sections of the United States.

One of our State exchanges utters a warning. It says: "Look out for the hypocrit and liar, for he is abroad in the land." Brother it is your own shadow that you are alarmed at.

Owing to the fact that Alliance speakers will be at the Concord Fair on the 18th, Bro. Leazar has withdrawn his appointment at Pine Forest on that date. He will fill all the other Cabarrus appointments.

The Denver, Col., Weekly Times contains a list of several hundred tracts of land advertised for taxes. We suppose the great (?) era of prosperity that the bankers report has not yet reached that State.

The New York Sun and other papers are publishing what purports to be the Secret Work of the Alliance. In doing so they exhibit littleness. But no doubt their Alliance readers will quietly smile when they read the stuff.

On to the fray, says the plutocrats! We will pay for advertising the Alliance. We appreciate their generosity. Advertising pays. Already we can feel the effects of the thorough advertising they are giving the Alliance.

Bro. M. A. Smith, of Auburn, came in Friday and reported that one of his cows gave birth to three calves last Tuesday. This is a rare occurrence. The cow and calves are all doing well. They will be shown at the Raleigh Exposition next month.

The New York Herald is richer than most of the North Carolina editors. Last week it bought a fine fox terrier for a poor blind man whose dog had died. The man, Garret Roach, says he is making fine progress training the terrier and thinks it will make a good guide. His dog had recently died.

A correspondent sends a club of subscribers and asks the following question: "Has an election actually occurred in Kentucky with the result as stated in the last issue of THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER? I have heard

nothing from it in the political papers and from the opponents of the Alliance." Our friend should ask the political papers why they fail to publish news when news is news.

As yet we have not heard how much the plutocrats pay for the advertising they are giving the Alliance and some of the leading officers. Just now the New York Morning Advertiser is doing the lying and the other papers are catching up the refrain.

The Concord Standard uses the cuts of prominent men as photos of the editors who will visit the Fair there soon. A cut of John Jacob Astor has the name of this scribe underneath. These editors will dispose of Dr. Cook at the proper time and see that he is properly buried.

A GREAT MISTAKE.

We see from the National Alliance, organ of the colored Farmers Alliance of the United States, that R. M. Humphries, General Superintendent, has perfected arrangements for a general strike of the colored cotton-pickers throughout the South, to go into effect on the 12th of this month, which was last Saturday. He advises them to go about it peacefully and stand firm until their demand is granted. They want \$1 per hundred for all cotton they pick.

We think this a great mistake on the part of our colored friends at this time. With cotton selling at 7 and 8 cents there is absolutely no profit in it. So even 50 cents per hundred is a big price, fully equal to the price of the cotton. An additional 50 cents per hundred means \$1.50 added to the cost of raising the cotton after it is ginned. If lint cotton was selling at 10 cents our farmers would just be where they now are after adding the extra \$1.50 to the cost of raising and picking.

The white farmers of the South are the best friends the colored people have. Some of them have not treated them as they should, but generally speaking the negroes have prospered where the whites prospered. The negro farmer and the white farmer are both on the same platform today. They are suffering from the same cause and the movement now on foot is not calculated to remedy the evils.

It is the duty of our white Alliance people to see that our colored farmers have an equal chance in life. But in taking this step the colored Alliancemen attempt to better their condition at the expense of their white brethren. Reforms should not be in the interest of one portion of our farmers at the expense of another. If both white and colored farmers can better their condition at the same time, then the country will be better for all classes. But for either color to benefit themselves at the expense of the other, it is simply a family throat cutting business. If our white and colored farmers can, by a united effort, remedy our financial system, get better prices for the products we raise, raise the price of farm labor, then all will have an equal chance to succeed. But as we see this cotton pickers' strike, it is a direct blow at farm owners which will cost a great deal and amount to nothing in the end. One thing is certain. Our farmers cannot afford to pay \$1 per hundred for cotton picking. Another thing is certain: Unless both white and black work together to secure general and equal relief, nothing good will come out of it. We think that after proper consideration the colored Alliancemen will see that they are taking an improper and suicidal step in demanding a thing impossible, and that they will reconsider the plan for a general strike. We profess to know as much about the situation and about cotton as Superintendent Humphries, and we do not hesitate to advise our farmers to leave their cotton in the fields rather than pay more than 50 cents per hundred to have it picked. The speculators are mainly responsible for the low price of cotton and so is our financial system. Strike at the root of the disease rather than at the top, for this movement is simply a blow at the top.

OUR THANKS.

We are under obligations for clubs sent in since last issue by F. S. Blair, A. C. Green, J. C. Brown, A. J. Dalby, J. S. Mitchell, J. H. Gilliam, Daniel Lane, J. E. Person, A. R. Hillburn, J. L. Wilson, D. McCain, Jas. Dryden.

SPACE SECURED.

Business Agent Worth and Secretary Barnes went out to the Exposition Grounds one day last week and scooped in space for the Alliance Headquarters and for the Reform Press. Several of the animals that have been attacking the Alliance and its officers quite vigorously will be captured and exhibited there in cages. They will be worth coming miles to see. All the reform papers will be on file and a man on hand to answer questions, take renewals or new subscribers. Don't forget all this when you start to the biggest exposition to be held in the South this year.

GOOD TIDINGS FROM KANSAS.

President Polk at Holton—The Brethren Rejoiced to Know that the South is with Them—Willets and Simpson at Home.

(By Telegraph to THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.)

HOLTON, KANSAS, Sept. 11. Col. Polk is with us and all doubts about the South are at rest. But three days in our midst, and thousands, tens of thousands, yes acres of loyal Alliancemen and women have had joy brought into their hearts by the declaration of their grand leader that the South is with us, heart and soul, in the grandest movement of centuries, with us on the Ocala platform, that will lead to success in 1892. Willets and Simpson came to us fresh from President Polk's country, with the glad tidings, and tell us also of the loving way they were taken into the arms and hearts of the Southern people; that cheer after cheer came from thousands of throats when President Polk is announced to address our people, and every eye beams with a welcome for him; every heart inspired by the blessed news he speaks. Yes, then can we say, at last, united the North and South, united by the chord that nature has touched that maketh them one. FRANK McGRATH, Prest. Kansas S. F. A. and I. U.

A CORRECTION.

In our leading editorial of last week there is some verbal confusion just at a most vital point. It should read: "With minor offices, such as do not in themselves involve any principle, the people need not concern themselves; they will have enough to do to watch the others. Officers which include mainly or only such duties as clerk, sheriff, constable, register of deeds, have always been sought for the money that is in them, and then, as the people's interest in them is largely protected by official bonds and their duties are plain and neglects easily detected, need not be made the subject of much concern."

By way of further explanation we will also add that it is the method of the old party bosses to drag as many personal and pecuniary interests into their campaigns as possible. They believe or pretend to believe that the followers for "the loaves and the fishes" really strengthen their cause. Every new office which can furnish a new sordid motive for partisanship is hailed by them with heartfelt delight. They can use this office and the salary there attached to buy the active support of men who will use all their influence to keep down issues, the agitation of which will destroy bossism.

THE COTTON CROP.

Some four weeks ago we expressed the opinion that the speculators were more responsible for the low price of cotton than the size of the crop and gave figures to sustain the statement. A few days ago a statement of the crop in sight showed a little over 500,000 bales in excess of the crop in sight at this time last year, which ought not reduce the price more than 50 or 75 cents per hundred. Beyond a doubt the cotton men of the world are doing all they can against the Sub-Treasury scheme. The low price of cotton has been a powerful weapon, but right now we see through the thin covering. Within the past two weeks cotton has advanced three-quarters of a cent, with another big crop just coming on the market. That never was heard of before and plainly shows that the values on cotton for the last ten months were fictitious. We have a large crop of all kinds of grain this year. If we had the Sub-Treasury we could hold a portion of the grain and realize some profit on it, which would make up for low prices in the past, but as it is our grain and cotton raisers are at the mercy of the millionaires and will be fleeced again. Moral: Vote for your home and family.

BRIGHT WORDS.

The following exceedingly bright article is from the Charlotte News: "The sockless Jerry Simpson has turned up in Chicago, where, the dispatches say, he has a suite of rooms in the Grand Hotel. The poor farmers about here are paying for all this style."

This is another style of lying that has just been adopted. The fashions change so often it is a great wonder that they are able to keep up, but then they are experts. This is simply a caudal sent out for the purpose of shaking the confidence of the people in an Alliance lecturer. We do not refer to it for the sole purpose of making a denial, but to show our readers the latest style in the art of slandering innocent people. Bro. Simpson is a plain, economical man. He has no use for a suite of rooms anywhere while lecturing. The truth is, he is travelling nearly all the time when not speaking to a crowd and there is no occasion for him to put on style at a hotel. But these dispatches are sent out by men

who have a flexible conscience, and men with the same kind publish them in their papers.

While on this subject we want to ask some questions. If it is of sufficient importance to telegraph and publish all over the country that an Alliance Congressman has actually occupied two rooms in a hotel, (which would not be startling even if true,) then is it not time to tell some things about non-Alliancemen? For instance: how is it that Congressmen go to Washington poor, live in houses paying more than their salary rent every year, live in fine style and get rich at the same time? How is it that a man can stay in Congress six years, live in high style, pay more than his salary for rent and clear a hundred thousand dollars? Why is it that a few honest Congressman and Senators come home as poor as they went, while others get vastly rich? Somebody should give that some attention. But if an Alliance Congressman spends the night at a first class hotel and gets his hair cut there is a great row made about it. Yes, "the poor farmers are paying for this style." They are also paying newspapers to lie on them, too.

FARMERS JOINED THE PROCESSION.

All thinking men who belong to labor organizations will note with satisfaction the reports that in some States the farmers in great numbers joined the processions yesterday, says the New York Herald of the 7th.

It must have been through oversight rather than intention that the farmers were not persuaded to join in the earlier associations formed to secure legislation in favor of men who work with their hands as well as their heads. If the so-called labor vote expects to be a powerful influence in politics it must become numerically stronger, and its recruits must come mainly from the farms. The politicians whom the workmen distrust and the business combinations which they fight are quite as obnoxious to the farmers as to any other class. For some reason more legislators and Congressmen are selected from the farming population than from the mills and railroad yards.

The workmen must have the farmers with them if they hope ever to form a party which shall be strong enough to stand alone, instead of being sometimes the ally of one of the older parties, sometimes of the other, only to be fooled by both.

From this we must conclude that the Herald has at last gotten its eyes open to the true state of affairs. It is strange indeed that the laborers in factories and mills have not joined hands with the farmers before this time. Last Monday was "Labor Day," and was generally observed by working people in many States, and, as the Herald says, the workmen were joined by farmers in many places. This is good news. Their interests are almost identically the same and if there is a thorough mixing of sentiment and a united effort made, no earthly power can stay the progress of this movement.

It is impossible to run a paper on a strictly cash basis. It is also impossible to run one without cash. Have you paid your subscription? If not, why not do so now? We need the money to pay accounts we owe.

A SHORT CROP.

To show how inconsistent and unwise the demand of the colored Alliance to have \$1 per hundred for picking cotton, we publish the following extract from a letter published in the National Alliance, organ of the colored Alliance, written by a negro farmer in Alabama: "I am a farmer, and have been for many years," said Mr. J. E. McDonald, "and I think I know what I mean when I state my belief that not more than two thirds, or perhaps one half, a crop of cotton will be raised this year. The early drouth took away much of the moisture which should have made a top root, and since the last drouth has let the ground so hot that rain will scald the plant to death. I have heard from Harris, Fort Bend, Walter, Brazoria, Wharton, Montgomery and Matagorda counties, and it is all the same. I know plenty of men who will be thankful for a third of what they counted on, and if there is any money in cotton this year it will not be for the farmer."

Now that is a fair statement. The crop is going to be short and but little prospect for high prices, though they may be better than now. He admits that there will be no money in cotton to the raisers. This shows plainly that it is impossible for our farmers to pay any better prices for picking cotton. They should positively refuse to do it and pick all they can and hire no one unless they are willing to pick at prices that can be afforded.

How are you off for cash? We are needing some bad. Please return kindness for accommodation. We sent you the paper when you wanted it. Now we need the money. Don't wait till next week or next month, but send us some money to-day.

MR. BILKINS



Interviews Jerry Rusk, the Rainmaker.

"Hello! Mr. Devil."

D—"Hello? who is that?"

B—"My name is Mr. Bilkins."

D—"All right; what can we do for you?"

B—"I want to talk to Jerry Rusk, the rainmaker. Tell the editor to come to the machine."

R—"All right, Uncle Zeke, what is the trouble?"

B—"I want to know if it would be wrong to talk some with Capt. Rusk, at Washington."

R—"No, not in the least."

B—"Mr. Rusk, hello!"

Rusk—"Who is that?"

B—"My name is Bilkins, I'm from North Carolina."

R—"Ah! yes. Fine State that, great agri cultural country. When I get my rain making process in shape I'll make things hum down South."

B—"Say, Captin Rusk, that rain business is what I want to talk about. How do you do it?"

R—"Well, you see, Mr. Bilkins, you farmers are not highly educated and it would be impossible to explain this matter to you."

B—"Say, Cap, ain't you a farmer?"

R—"Yes, certainly. I've been U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture for three years."

B—"I thought so. Now I want to know why it is that you are so much smarter than the rest of us. If you can monkey around with a machine to make rain, why you ought ter tell a feller about it."

R—"You see, Mr. Rusk, I don't give agriculture much attention. I'm in politics. The fact is I am prominently mentioned in connection with the Presidency."

B—"So I've heard. The editor of our paper said last week that a bee was hummin' in your bonnet with a noise like a saw-mill."

R—"Who is the editor of your paper?"

B—"Why, don't you know nothin' about THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER?"

R—"Oh yes. Well, I don't approve of these Alliance papers, I think they are too political."

B—"Say, Cap. Didn't you say you were in politics yourself?"

R—"Yes, but I am working for the advancement of agriculture. I have a right to go into politics."

B—"Well, I reckon the rest of us hev a right to go inter politics, then. Us fellers what work in the field are 'workin' in the interest of agriculture' a blamned sight more than these Com missioners of Agriculture. I don't believe they are very agricultural now."

All of them are wantin' office so bad they kin taste it. Mean' Betsy have about decided that for our part we could do without any Commissioner of Agriculture in ours."

R—"What are your objections to them, Mr. Bilkins?"

B—"Well you see most of them don't do anything to help along the Alliance. Me an' Betsy are both strong Alliancemen, an' we want to see our agricultural men friendly to us. Betsy thinks it mity strange that Commissioners of Agriculture would do anything against us Alliance people."

R—"We are not against your organization, Mr. Bilkins, as long as it stays out of politics, but you should not go into politics. That course will ruin the country."

B—"Hello, central!"

C—"All right, Mr. Bilkins"

B—"Say, I talked the whole jaw off Mister Rusk, the rainmaker. He admits that he don't know anything about makin' it rain, but he knows all about politics."

C—"Well, we suppose that he is cultivating a political hot-bed, for he has done nothing to help the farmers except yell 'big crops' and great prosperity." Now and then he tells the farmers that they are working too much, and that they are suffering from overproduction."

B—"Has the News and Observer published them letters yet?"

C—"No."

B—"Well, tell them I am havin' mity hard work to keep Betsy from stoppin' our paper. She says they had oughter publish them."

Those who have seen the Groupe Picture of our Leaders are enthusiastic over it. Subscribe now and get one by return mail, free.

TRYING TO MAKE THINGS LOOK UGLY.

Perhaps no paper in the State has been more industrious or used more cunning to try to injure the Alliance than the Lenoir Topic. But like most of the same crowd it leaves the Alliance platform standing solid and sails into the officers and lecturers every chance it gets. We will stop right here to say that this is a sure way to aid the Alliance, for if its platform and doctrines are not undermined there is nothing to do but push on to success. But it is amusing to watch these fellows who are regular gasbags of sorry stuff that is not put down on any maps or mentioned in any of the dictionaries. Now Alliancemen, listen to what Statesman Scott gets off and then set down and smile:

"Nobody will wonder that Col. Polk missed connection and could not get to Charlotte in time to speak at length, that he was too sick to speak at Durham and that grabbing Jerry Simpson by the nape of the neck, he skipped Salisbury altogether and flew away to Iowa with the sockless statesman. It would make anybody sick to entertain the idea of being placed in the same boat and on an equality with such a sorry specimen as Jerry Simpson shows up to be."

Now ain't that dreadful? No doubt every true Allianceman in Caldwell county trembled when he read that terrible indictment. It is awful. Gov. Holt ought to call out the military. A special session of Congress ought to be called to see if there couldn't be some arrangements made to increase the regular standing army double what it now is. Oh! it is dreadful.

Now for the facts. Col. Polk was on a train on the Seaboard Air Line. A hundred feet of a high embankment was washed away. Is there any one except old man Scott who would expect the train to cross that big gap in the road? However Col. Polk did get there in time to speak at night. He was unwell at Durham, and Bro. Simpson and Willets having already made long and excellent speeches, he was not expected to speak long. He did not "fly to Iowa with sockless Simpson. Bro. Simpson and Willets went to one State, Col. Polk to another. And last but not least, Jerry Simpson did not say anything that could be construed to mean social equality at Charlotte or any other place. One or two reporters did construe some of his words to mean that, but these reporters have not told the truth in four years and are not expected to. Thousands of reputable citizens and editors have heard Simpson speak, many of them not members of the Alliance, and none of them heard anything of the sort. In this paper there is a statement from one of the best citizens of the city of Charlotte, a man of undoubted integrity and a man who never has anything to do with the Alliance. He says Simpson used no such language.

Now why do we refer to this at all? Simply to show the littleness of some people and to expose the silly, hypocritical charges made against Alliancemen. Friends you are beginning to see what great guardians you have been depending on to keep things right. Nine-tenths of them are not capable of superintending the setting of a hen.

HOW IS THIS?

We have supposed for a long time that the Robesonian, of Lumberton, was quite friendly to the Alliance. But from recent editorials we must conclude that it is something else. Some days ago Hon. Jerry Simpson, of Kansas, made four speeches in this State by invitation. The Alliancemen who heard his speeches were unanimous in their approval. Read this extract from the Robesonian editorial and see if there is any evidence of friendship:

"This Jerry is no fit man to instruct Alliancemen and Democrats of North Carolina what is best for them to do. He is no Democrat or North Carolina Allianceman—he is radically different from both—he is a Jay-Hawking Kansas Republican Allianceman and as such no friend to Southern principles and ideas. This way Alliance orators have of running into other States than their own and dictating to the people what they should do has not turned out well for the Alliance. It utterly failed in Georgia and Mississippi and has nearly wrecked the order in Texas."

WHY IS IT?

The Farmers' Advocate, Tarboro, makes the following point in reference to the Railroad Commission:

"Since the passing of the Railroad Commission bill, not one word have we seen in its favor. Is it because a former legislature passed it? This bill has not only proved a good thing to our State, even for the short time it has been in vogue, but its future usefulness can hardly be ascertained. Every dog should certainly have his dues. And who is benefited? Why everybody, of course."

We must conclude that it was because the bill was passed by a "farmer legislature." The six per cent. interest bill will be passed by the next legislature. There will be no praise then, either, but it is not because our State editors are money-lenders. None of them own railroads, either, but they act as if they were hurt in the transactions along this line. Oh! these terrible editors. They are dreadful. Indeed they are. If you say a word against millionaires they go wild, but none of them are millionaires. Why is it?